

Remarks

This Amendment is submitted in response to the non-final Office Action mailed on October 17, 2005. Claims 1-10 are pending before the Amendment. Claims 7-10 have been cancelled. Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in complete condition for allowance and request reconsideration of the application in this regard.

Applicants hereby affirm the oral election without traverse of the claims of Group I, namely claims 1-6, for prosecution on the merits without prejudice to filing a separate divisional application directed to non-elected claims of Group II, namely claims 7-10.

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,893,077 to DeJongh (hereinafter *DeJongh*). Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,456,644) in view of *DeJongh*. Claims 1 and 4 are independent claims. Applicants submit an affidavit of prior invention under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, as an attachment herewith, which has been executed by both inventors of the subject matter claimed. The affidavit establishes that Applicants invented the claimed subject matter before the filing date of *DeJongh* (March 18, 2004) relied upon in the rejection. Attached to the affidavit is a photocopy of an original exhibit consisting of a written invention disclosure with annotated drawings. Applicants' showing of facts is, in character and weight, sufficient as to establish that the inventors conceived a door trim panel that embodies the features and advantages of the present invention, as claimed in the '305 application, in the United States prior to the effective date of *DeJongh*. Consequently, Applicants submit that U.S. Patent No. 6,893,077 is no longer a valid reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

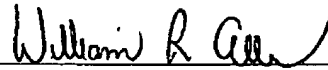
Conclusion

Applicants have made a bona fide effort to respond to each and every requirement set forth in the Office Action. In view of the foregoing remarks, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance and, accordingly, a timely notice of allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited. If there is any additional matter that may be resolved by telephone or fax, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite issuance of this application.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due in connection with this submission other than the one-month extension fee. However, if such petition is due or any fees are necessary, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to deposit account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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